

First Access case study:

Whiteparish All Saints Church of England Primary School



First Access is about providing whole classes or class groups with a formative opportunity to experience and enjoy music making. It usually involves a whole class of children learning to play a musical instrument, usually all at the same time, but sometimes splitting the class into smaller groups. However it is structured, every child in the class takes part.

Whiteparish All Saints Church of England Primary School is a small local authority maintained primary school in the village of Whiteparish, comprising four classes: one Year R class and three mixed year group classes in key stages 1 and 2. The Music Subject Lead is Katie Kornycky.

All pupils at Whiteparish follow a bespoke, progressive music curriculum that is based on the Model Music Curriculum and has First Access provision built in.

What?

Pupils in Year R and key stage 1 participate in music and movement sessions that include singing and playing percussion instruments. Pupils in key stage 2 participate in whole-class ukulele lessons and small-group percussion lessons, enhanced through the use of programming and recording tools on laptops and iPads.

How?

The First Access ukulele, percussion and recording teaching is delivered by a Wiltshire Music Connect Associate Tutor, Gregory Cook, and is interwoven with curriculum music in the school's bespoke musical offer. Every class receives weekly music lessons through a combination of the Associate Tutor and their class teacher. Years R, 1 and 2 are taught music by Gregory for two terms and their class teacher for four terms, focusing on movement, singing, body percussion and classroom percussion instruments. They begin to follow and create pictorial notation with Gregory, and with their class teacher they apply this knowledge to their own music and singing compositions related to their work in other curriculum areas.

Key stage 2 classes are taught music by Gregory for four terms and their class teacher for two. The key stage 2 curriculum includes whole-class lessons on ukulele and group lessons on percussion. Pupils also learn to create and record music. They use a Digital Audio Workstation to create their own tracks and explore the sounds of the instruments they are learning, and experience a wide range of styles and genres through this. With their class



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teachers, they apply what they have learnt to create their own compositions, extending their understanding and use of formal music notation and enhancing their work in other curriculum areas. This includes creating their own recordings on iPads using GarageBand.

Why?

In 2022, Katie wanted to create a more progressive curriculum for music that incorporated the Model Music Curriculum. Gregory Cook, a Wiltshire Music Connect Associate Tutor, was delivering whole-class ukulele and peripatetic ukulele and percussion lessons at the school, and Katie saw an opportunity for them to work together to write a bespoke curriculum which incorporates First Access teaching. Bringing their own individual skills and experience to the process, Katie and Gregory invested time in crafting something that has a strong focus on musical progression and curriculum coverage and enables all pupils to participate in instrumental learning.

What are the strengths of this model?

- Inviting the Wiltshire Music Connect Associate Tutor to collaborate on the design of the music curriculum and First Access provision brought a richer and more diverse range of skills to the process, with the Music Subject Lead's expertise and experience being complemented by that of the Associate Tutor.
- Pupils' musical skills are developed in Year R and key stage 1 in preparation for the introduction of other instruments at key stage 2. The whole curriculum is designed to support progression, and having the Associate Tutor teach every year group in the school promotes continuity of learning.
- Incorporating the use of electronic recording and composition into instrumental learning has really engaged pupils and enabled them to explore a wider range of styles and genres.
- Because the Wiltshire Music Connect Associate also teaches peripatetic instrumental tuition in the school and runs an after-school ensemble, there is a strong link between the class lessons and the extra-curricular provision, with pupils being targeted and encouraged to access these opportunities. This has led to performance opportunities both within school and within the wider community.



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